

Edgemont  
Neighborhood  
Coalition

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Projects  
Edgemont



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July 22, 2009

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Federal Communications Commission  
Room 8-B115  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company  
Board of Directors; CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 97-21.

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I am writing on behalf of the Edgemont Neighborhood Coalition to nominate Ellis Jacobs to be the representative of low-income consumers on the Board of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC).

The Edgemont Neighborhood Coalition is a citizen group located in the Edgemont Neighborhood of Dayton, Ohio. Ours is an extremely low-income, mostly African American neighborhood. The coalition operates a community center, computer lab, urban garden and provides many social and educational services to our neighborhood.

In 1995, we became concerned about affordability of phone service and the ability of people in our neighborhood to access the Internet. We contacted Ellis Jacobs, a local public interest attorney who represents low income groups and individuals. He was very interested in our concerns and, from then until now he has represented us in many cases at the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and at the Federal Communication Commission, always working to make phone service affordable and to expand access to communication services for low-income individuals and communities.

Mr. Jacobs has done a great job as our representative and we know he would be an excellent member of the USAC Board, and an asset to any board. We are pleased to nominate him to the USAC Board.

Sincerely,

Barbara J. Hunt  
Executive Director

**Standard Register.**

**Partnership**

- Dupont
- Dayton Urban League
- University of Dayton

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List ABCDE

**ELLIS JACOBS**  
**131 E. Davis Street**  
**Yellow Springs, OH 45387**  
**Phone: (937) 535-4419**  
**Fax: (937) 449-8131**  
**Ejacobs@ablelaw.org**

**BAR ADMISSIONS**

Admitted to Ohio and Federal Bars, November 1981

**EDUCATION:**

University of Dayton School of Law - Dayton, Ohio  
J.D. Degree, June 1981  
Capital University, UWW - Columbus, Ohio  
B.A. 1978

**EMPLOYMENT:**

**ADVOCATES FOR BASIC LEGAL EQUALITY, INC.**  
Dayton, Ohio  
Senior Attorney  
(December, 2003 – Present)  
Utility Regulation, Environmental Law, Voting Rights.

**LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF DAYTON, INC.**  
Dayton, Ohio  
Litigation Director/Chief Counsel/ Managing Attorney  
(May 1987 – December, 2003)  
Utility Regulation and Environmental Law.

**CITY OF DAYTON**  
Dayton, Ohio  
Magistrate  
(September 1985 - May 1987)  
Presided over the city's landlord/tenant court, heard a variety of  
other cases referred by municipal judges.

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDERS OFFICE**  
Dayton, Ohio  
Senior Appellate Attorney  
(November 1983 - September 1985)  
Trial Attorney  
(November 1981 - November 1983)

MONTGOMERY COUNTY FAIR HOUSING CENTER  
Dayton, Ohio  
(May 1981 - November 1981)  
Civil rights litigation, landlord/tenant law.

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON SCHOOL OF LAW  
Visiting Professor, Law Clinic  
Spring 2001, Fall 2003

ANTIOCH UNIVERSITY  
Visiting Professor, Business Law  
Spring 2001, Fall 2002

SINCLAIR COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
Instructor, Business Law  
1987

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Grant Reviewer, Technology Opportunities Program,  
2002

**RELEVANT  
EXPERIENCE:**

ATLANTIC FELLOWSHIP IN PUBLIC POLICY  
Fellow, Office of Telecommunications (OFTEL),  
London, England  
(August 2001 – January 2002)  
As part of a British Government sponsored fellowship program,  
worked and studied at OFTEL, the British equivalent of the FCC.  
While working on several projects for OFTEL, researched and  
wrote, "British Universal Service Policy in the Era of Mobile  
Madness", presented at the Atlantic Fellowship Conference,  
London England, May 2002.

TELEPHONE AND TECHNOLOGY ACCESS PROJECT  
Director (1995 – 2003)  
Provided public interest advocacy for the low-income community  
on telecommunication issues. This included representation in  
alternative regulation, merger, service quality and prepaid  
provider cases and involvement in universal service, local  
competition and minimum service standard rules dockets.

OHIO COMMUNITY COMPUTING CENTER NETWORK

Board Member (1995 – 2004)

Chair (1995 – 1998)

The OCCN provides support to a network of computer centers in low income communities throughout Ohio, including centers funded as the result of settlements in the Ameritech and Cincinnati Bell Telephone alternative regulation and merger cases.

UNIVERSAL SERVICE ASSISTANCE ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE

Board Member (1995 – 2006)

Chair (1996 – 1998)

This committee oversaw the implementation of the low-income lifeline program in the Ameritech-Ohio service territory. In 2004 this group merged into "Lifeline Ohio".

COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY FUND OF OHIO

Board Chair (1999 – 2006)

This fund provided grants to help organizations in low-income communities effectively use telecommunications and computer technology. This fund resulted from the settlement of a merger case and was overseen by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio. It expired in 2006 when it completed oversight of all grants.

**SELECTED  
PUBLICATIONS:**

Ellis Jacobs, "Legal Aid's Role in the Fight for Telecommunications and Computer Access in Low-income Communities," Clearinghouse Review, Vol. 37, Number 3, August 2003.

Gabrielle Hammond and Ellis Jacobs, "The Future of Technology in Legal Services: A Time for New Advocacy," Clearinghouse Review, Vol. 37, Number 1-2, May-June 2003.

Ellis Jacobs, "Fighting to Turn the Promise of Universal Telecommunications Technology Service into Reality: The Experience of one Community Organization in Ohio," Georgetown Journal on Poverty Law and Policy, Vol. VIII, Number 1, Winter 2001.

Ellis Jacobs, Cary Williams, "Telecommunications Policy in Ohio: Interventions to Bridge the Digital Divide," Quarterly Bulletin, National Regulatory Research Institute, Vol. 20, Number 3, Fall/Winter 1999.

Ellis Jacobs, "Expanding Low-Income Communities' Access to Telecommunications Technology," Clearinghouse Review, Vol. 29, Number 3, July 1995.

**SELECTED  
PRESENTATIONS:**

"First Do No Harm; Representing Community Organizations," National Legal Aid and Defender Association, San Jose, California, July, 2006.

"Systemic Advocacy in the Digital Age," National Legal Aid and Defender Association, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, November 2002.

"British Universal Service Policy in the Era of Mobile Madness", Atlantic Fellowship in Public Policy Conference, London, England, May, 2002.

"Overcoming the Digital Divide," National Legal Aid and Defender Association, Washington DC, November 2000.

"The Digital Divide and Low Income Communities Access to Technology," Ohio State Legal Services, Columbus Ohio, October 2000.

"Universal Service Advocacy," National Legal Aid and Defender Association, Houston, Texas, April 2000.

"Advancing the Public Interest before State Utility Commissions," Community Technology Centers' Network, Boston, Massachusetts, June, 1996.

"Lessons from the World of Telecommunications," National Consumer Law Center, Washington, D.C., February, 1996.

"National and Local Telecommunications Agendas: Advancing the Public Interest in a Changing Environment," Center for Neighborhood Technology, Chicago, Illinois, November, 1995.